

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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R 280901Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2297

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASDUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: JORDAN PRESS REPORT ON AMERICAN PLAN FOR

JORDANIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT

1. UNDER BANNER HEADLINE, "THE DETAILS OF THE "AMERICAN PLAN" FOR DISENGAGEMENT ON THE JORDANIAN FRONT", FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED AUG. 26 ON FRONT PAGE OF LITTLE-TEAD JORDANIAN WEEKLY AMMAN AL-MASA:

"DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS IN THE AMERICAN CAPITAL SAID AN AMERICAN PLAN HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT ON THE JORDANIAN FRONT. THE PLAN WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT ATTENTION BY THE CONFLICTING PARTIES. THOSE QUARTERS SAID THE BROAD LINES OF THE AGREEMENT ARE:

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(A) ISRAEL AGREES TO WITHDRAW GRADUALLY FROM THE

WEST BANK, EXCEPT FROM THE STRATEGIC POSITIONS WHICH THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS OCCUPY IN THE JORDAN VALLEY AND OTHER STRATEGIC SITES OCCUPIED BY UNITS OF THE ISRAELI ARMY IN ORDER TO SECURE ISRAEL'S PEACE AND SECURITY.

(B) THE FIRST PHASE OF WITHDRAWAL WILL BEGIN BY THE HANDING OVER OF THE AREAS EXTENDING FROM JORDAN RIVER TO THE CITY OF JERICHO.

(C) IN THE FORTHCOMING PHASES WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE WITHDRAWAL, TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE TO CONDUCT SOME CHANGES ON THE BORDER ALL ALONG THE JERUSALEM CORRIDOR WHICH CONNECTS THE HOLY CITY (JERUSALEM) WITH THE COAST.

(D) ISRAEL APPROVED THE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATION ON THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM, AND, THUS WOULD ALLOW JORDAN TO HOIST ITS FLAG OVER THE EASTERN PART OF THE OLD CITY.

DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SAYS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WANTS TO REACH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL OUTSIDE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE SO THAT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, WHEN IT MEETS, WOULD BE MERELY A DECLARATION OF THE AGREEMENT."

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST ARTICLE TO APPEAR IN CONTROLLED JORDANIAN PRESS ON JORDANIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATION ISSUES SINCE KING HUSSEIN'S TRIP TO THE US. WE SUSPECT THAT GOJ MAY BE USING ABOVE JORDANIAN LIMITED CIRCULATION WEEKLY ARTICLE AS A LOW-KEY DEVICE TO SOFTEN UP JORDANIAN OPINION REGARDING SOME OF THE ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE JORDANIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND SIMILAR STORY ALSO APPEARED IN MOST RECENT ISSUE OF BEIRUT WEEKLY AL HAWAADITH.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT ABOVE REPORT APPEARED AT ROUGHLY SAME TIME AS AUG 25 ISRAELI (HAARETZ) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS REPORT (TEL AVIV 4879) WHICH ALSO REPORTED AN ALLEGED US NEGOTIATIONS APPROACH. ONLY COMMON ELEMENT IN JORDANIAN AND ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS HOWEVER APPEARS TO BE MENTION OF ALLEGED US POSITION REGARDING FIRST-STAGE WITHDRAWAL IN JERICHO AREA. PICKERING

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